

LOCAL I-S NEWS

for department store workers

VOL. 1 No. 2

264

September, 1949

White Plains Membership Ratifies Contract

**Approves \$2 Increase;
Health Plan Benefits**

Jubilant White Plains members of Local I-S unanimously voted in favor of a contract submitted by their negotiating committee last week.

The contract is for the large part the same as that covering 7300 members of Local I-S employed in Macy's Herald Square, Jamaica, Parkchester and Flatbush. The agreement calls for a general wage increase of \$2 per week, retroactive to June 6th, in addition to the inclusion of the White Plains group in the Health Plan now in effect in the other stores.

The White Plains wage scale now represents an average of the structures prevailing at Parkchester and Jamaica and stands substantially above the average wage paid elsewhere in the town. Individual negotiators and other union spokesmen confidently predicted that differences in the job review maximums, which will not be reached during the life of this contract, will be eliminated when the master agreement is re-negotiated in February of 1951.

In individual cases, immediate upward adjustment of the wage structure was made. In the case

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Exec. Board Protests Un-American Attack

Protesting the unbridled terror and violence hurled against a peaceful group of men, women and children attending a concert at which Paul Robeson was to have been the guest artist, the I-S Executive Board sent the following telegram to Governor Thomas E. Dewey:

"As you know so well, the Constitution of the United States guarantees to all citizens the right of peaceful assembly. It is the duty of law enforcement agencies to protect this right. The acts of organized violence and terror executed by veterans and hoodlums in Peekskill are a direct attack on this constitutional right of peaceful assembly. Since local police and state troopers have obviously failed to protect this right and the safety of the people attending the concert we now call upon the highest agency of the state government for a full scale investigation and prosecution of those guilty."

YOUR letters, postcards or telegrams of protest should be addressed to Gov. Dewey, Albany, N. Y., President Truman and Atty. Gen. McGrath, Washington, D. C.

1st Health Plan Baby Borne to CDA'er and 1-S By Smart, Stalling Stork

For those who couldn't figure it out, let it be said that the high flying bird observed circling New York at the end of July was nothing less than the Stork awaiting the signing of the Local I-S Health Plan.

On August 2nd, only one day after the Plan went into effect, our fine feathered friend deposited 6 pound nine ounce Joan De Camp at St. Clair's Hospital.

Proud Papa Le Roy is a part time night worker in the Controller's Office. His days are spent studying art and design under the G.I. Bill of Rights at the Art Student's League.

When Brother De Camp learned that his wife was eligible for maternity benefits despite the fact that their girl was born a full week before the formal signing of the agreement he said, "This health plan is a wonderful thing to me. Working part-time to supplement my government subsistence allowance while I'm studying doesn't leave any room for saving. We couldn't even afford to buy any kind of hospitalization . . . and now we can clear up the hospital and doctor bills that have accumulated. The union means a lot to me, first for the wage increases and security I have gained and now for this health plan. It's truly wonderful."

Stork Pays Other Calls

Finding that it could make safe and happy landings under the generous provisions of the Health Plan, the Stork played five return engagements in the first 30 days of the Plan. I-S members who sat in the place of honor at each performance are: Irving and Matty Wolf; Stanley and Pauline Pasternak; Pasquale and Jean Simonelli; Michael and Kathleen Quane and Raymond and Marion Rooks.

Health Plan Consultant Ruth Watson reports that since the inception of the Plan on August 1st more than 47 claims have been filed for hospitalization including 22 surgical claims and one claim submitted for non-surgical, in-hospital care.

Membership Response "Most Gratifying"

Response of union members to the Plan has been "most gratifying" according to Vice President Elizabeth Hammond who is credited with being the negotiator primarily responsible for the inclusion of many of the benefits provided for in the agreement. "The claimants and workers with questions who have come to the Union Office," Mrs. Hammond said, "prove that Local I-S has strength."

(Continued on page 2)

Union Cards Ready At 1-S Office

Official Local I-S Membership Cards are now available at the union office. All members are urged to call for their cards at the earliest moment, but are advised by leaders of the Local that they will be given only to members in good standing.

Union cards will be required for admission to and participation in all union meetings. Members who have not signed a check-off authorization will have the record of their dues payments stamped on the back of the card.

Under the terms of the agreement between Local I-S and Macy's, any worker who fails to join the Union or who is more than two months in arrears faces the loss of his union benefits and his right to continue to work in the store. For the few who have thus far failed to fulfill their elementary trade union responsibilities, President Kovnetsky had a word of caution. He said, "It would be tragic for a worker to find him-

(Continued on page 2)



White Plains members unanimously favor contract providing raises, job security and Health Plan benefits.

Jobless Suffer Under Delays, Denials of Insurance Benefits

Not many months ago a well-known radio commentator unjustly and irresponsibly accused many jobless workers of seeking Unemployment Insurance benefits to which they were not entitled.

Following this service to employers, who receive an annual rebate if the figures show high employment in their industry, local offices of the New York State Unemployment Insurance Division began an unprecedented crack-down on applicants.

The first effort of managers at the Local Boards is to prove that the unemployed worker voluntarily left his job in order to collect the insurance. A case in point is the recent experience of a I-S member who was laid off in Parkchester in a reduction of staff. When she applied for unemployment insurance she was accused of having deliberately gotten herself fired. The Board, on that basis, ruled her ineligible. Union Administrator Gabriel dell Angelo intervened on her behalf and obtained a letter from the company which cleared her and served to expose the tactics of the Board. In face of the letter the ruling was reversed and benefits were granted.

Downgrading — Favors for the Boss

When the Insurance office cannot get away without paying benefits they take another approach. They try to downgrade a worker. They insist on sending insurance claimants out on jobs which pay wages far below the worker's customary earnings. If the worker refuses to be browbeaten into accepting inadequate wages he is accused of being "unavailable for employment."

(Continued on page 2)

YOU MUST

REGISTER

TO VOTE

REGISTER OCT. 10 — 15th



Meet Joan, Joan and Le Roy de Camp, first to benefit under the Health Plan.

BRANCH STORE NEWS

PARKCHESTER



Georgine Staib

Our late vacationers are back in the fold . . . Candlewood Lake has given Lillian Filappone back to us and Sylvan Lake has returned Lillian Lewkowitz . . . Ethel Fishman was after big game in Canada . . . what's the game, Ethel? . . . Mae Roxley was on a shuttle-run to Jones Beach while Friedel Schmidt and Mary Cohen disported at Lake George . . . Naomi Coyne's vacation was interrupted for an operation on August 2 . . . Naomi didn't know she was being one of the first to benefit under the Health Plan . . . she still can't get over the wonder of it and sounds like an insurance salesman these days . . . Rose Lottario's daughter will walk down the aisle on Sept. 24th and Catherine Keohane is going to take the nuptial vows on the very same day . . . our best wishes to all concerned . . . just a reminder to let your Shop Steward know of any illness in the department so that Navin Newman or Lil O'Neil can make out a Welfare Card for the Union . . . We think we have some top-notch Stewards . . . let's get going with our nominations for "Steward of the Month."

JAMAICA

News from this neck of the woods is rather scarce at the moment due to a general quiet which has settled over the Jamaica scene with the winding up of our long-looked-forward-to and too-soon-gone vacations. Roberta Felsen, our enthusiastic and efficient administrator reports continuing progress on the settlement of grievances . . . for one thing, the question of executives selling has just about been completely resolved, due in large measure to the unceasing vigilance of Union members . . . also, all cashiers and other non-selling workers will be equally considered for aptitude tests for selling jobs . . . we're also working on the questions of straight salary people being "promoted" to commission jobs. We're fighting towards higher base pay that we can be sure of every week instead of the hope that always goes with a commission . . . but that problem goes for everybody, not Jamaica alone . . . a "Stewards Luncheon" on Wednesdays at noon at the Franklin Hotel has become one of our fixtures . . . the menu offers good food, good talk and seems to help make good stewards . . .



Ben Calabrese

FLATBUSH



Marie Martino

Most of the sighs to be heard around here are simply over the fact that vacations are behind us and a long, busy season lies ahead. Since the heat is no longer a favorite topic of conversation we find more people talking about shop problems and the settling of grievances . . . which makes this as good a time as any to talk about the job that Hal Brink, Rhea Sabran, June Homan and John Beninati, are doing as Grievance Committeemen. Since the committee was organized last February this team has done outstanding work. They won the reinstatement of Bernard Keil (F2) who had been laid off out of seniority. They won from management an itemized list of a sponsor's duties and attained rates for our alternate fitter in children's shoes and they won air conditioning units in the alteration rooms. These are just a few examples of victories which have been ours . . . BY GEORGE . . . It looks as though Georges Jones and Spear will be claiming dependents on their tax statements . . . they nibbled at the hook and got it . . . line and sinker, too. Lucy Horton flashing an engagement ring . . . with our best wishes for everything good, congratulations, Lucy . . . Hazel Garvin back with us after a serious illness . . . Hazel these days sounds like a walking advertisement for the I-S Health Plan . . . Our bowling tournament started Sept. 12 and Spinelli's will see our lads and lassies on Monday nites for many weeks to come . . . it should be fun.

WHITE PLAINS

Our big news is in the headlines this month . . . It has been a hard pull, but we know that it could have been much tougher . . . we have had to do a lot of fast growing up trade union-wise in the last short while, but it seems that most everyone is now convinced that so long as we stand together we can effectively guarantee ourselves job security and decent working conditions . . . and most of us know that there is still room for improvement . . . We held our first Stewards meeting at the tail end of August and everybody is praising everybody else for the wonderful turnout . . . our thanks to Administrator Pat Favoino and VP Elizabeth Hammond for so ably helping us to know our jobs and being able to do them . . . Our education committee of Helen Ruderman, Gerta Straus, George Francis and Al Fischer are mapping a program to help make all of us up here equal partners with all other I-S members in future negotiations . . . Your reporter is still bragging about his 7 pound 2 ounce boy despite the fact that Caleb Lawrence's new son weighs in at 7-3 and Anthony Scarcella tops us both with a 7-8 butch . . . a whole flock of little fellas! Jack Kenny is still wishing he had never climbed that tree . . . and our Soft-ball team is still holding its head up after splitting a double-header with Parkchester.



Gerard Conway

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS

Sports Program and Expansion Study Approved

The Local I-S Executive Board at its August meeting set the wheels into motion for the creating of a program designed to build a closer relationship between the individual members and the union and further, established a committee to study the outlook for I-S during the coming year.

The new Policy Committee was instructed to "study and prepare a report on the perspectives of the Local . . . to map a campaign for organizing the unorganized . . . and to fully prepare for our wage re-opening in February of 1950." The committee was directed to report back to the Executive Board in September with its findings. President Sam Kovenetsky said in part, "Our victories over the CIO, AFL and Macy's have won us a national reputation and have strengthened us immeasurably. We must utilize those victories to fortify our bargaining position for 1950." Committee members are: Sam Levine, 113 Dept., Bill Atkinson, 123, Lil O'Neil, P3, Henry Bernstein, 88, Max Wald, Receiving, Deborah Valencia, DA, and Katherine Blatt, 134.

The Executive Board also named Carl Lutz, Dorothy De Mauriac and Bill Roschak to serve as an Editorial Committee with policy making powers for the Local I-S NEWS.

Dorothy De Mauriac reported on the Bill of Rights Conference to which she and Vera Zeeman had been sent as observers. She said that the spirit of the Conference was summed up in the resolution which pledged to "defend and help any anti-fascist group whose civil liberties are being curtailed."

Storm signals were hoisted when the Board warned that unless Macy executives stop performing staff duties there would be depart-

ment stoppages for the enforcement of the contract. Board members were urged to discuss this fully with all Stewards and to begin mobilizing their members.

For full details on the recreation program, see the sports column on Page 4 of this issue.

Health Plan Material Ready for Mailing

Group Health Insurance and Blue Cross identification cards are now ready for mailing to all members in good standing, President Sam Kovenetsky announced today.

President Kovenetsky warned that those workers who are not having their dues deducted by way of the check-off stand in danger of losing their Health Plan benefits if they neglect to make their payments each month at the I-S Office. The half dollar monthly contribution was approved by the membership at a specially called meeting on August 9th.

The Local's President urged all union members who were on vacation or out of the store for other reasons and who did not fill out a Group Health Insurance application card to report immediately to the Union Office in order to assure themselves maximum Health Plan coverage.

A Health Plan spokesman declared that, "it is of the greatest importance that each member have his cards with him at all times. Duplicate cards for husbands or wives also covered by the Plan may be obtained at the Union Office. In the interest of avoiding delays and confusion should an emergency arise, no time should be lost in calling for these necessary identification cards."



Vice Pres. Elizabeth Hammond turns over first Group Health Insurance check paid under Health Plan to proud papa Le Roy de Camp at the Union office.

Health Plan Deductions Start; Benefit All In Good Standing

One dollar covering Health Plan payments of fifty cents per month for August and September, was deducted via check-off from the pay envelope of every I-S member who has authorized the company to make such withdrawals. The October and subsequent payments, will be made on the third pay day of each month.

Only members in good dues standing are considered part of the group which is insured under the

Health Plan. Workers in doubt about their dues status should report to the Union office at once.

Wanted and Willing

If you want something, or have something that you are willing to sell or swap, why not let your I-S Brothers and Sisters know about it.

Space will be reserved in each issue of the NEWS for any advertisement that complies with the usual Postal Regulations. Send

Jobless Suffer—

(Continued from page 1)

ment" and therefore not entitled to benefits.

Through these, and other means, untold thousands of workers have been denied benefits to which they are entitled. Rejected claims are not included in government statistics showing the growing number of unemployed, while insistence on a worker accepting work at starvation wages is designed to provide employers with a supply of cheap labor while at the same time guaranteeing them their yearly rebates.

Threat to Union Standards

Unions everywhere recognize the conduct of the Insurance Boards as a grave threat to the wage and working standards they have fought to establish. Sam Kovenetsky, President of Local I-S said, "We vigorously protest this type of action by boards which are supposed to impartially represent the interests of the people of New York State. We consider it the duty of our union to look after the interests of our members even though circumstances may have caused dismissal from Macy's. We will do everything within our power to see that they get all the benefits which are rightfully theirs."

I-S Offers Help

Members of Local I-S who encountered any difficulty on applying for Unemployment Insurance are urged to report to the Union office at once so that they may receive whatever help is needed to assure the proper processing of their claim.

1st Baby—

(Continued from page 1)

ened the bonds of common interest which tie together the entire membership. The many new faces we have seen in the Union hall since the signing of the Plan clearly indicates that we will continue to grow strong so long as we continue to concern ourselves with the general welfare of every man and woman on our rolls."

Mrs. Watson is at the Union office from 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. every day, Monday through Friday. A specially trained authority on all aspects of the Health Plan, she is prepared to answer all questions regarding benefits and rights and to assist in the preparation of Claim Forms for presentation.

Union Cards—

(Continued from page 1)

self and his family without the protection of our Health Plan through his own neglect. It would be still more tragic for a worker to find himself without a job because he would not take the time to walk from 34th to 33rd Street to make sure of his union status. The individual must assume responsibility for the consequences that follow his neglect. It is my earnest hope that any worker who has a question about his standing in the Union will lose no time in coming to the office and getting himself straightened out."

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LOCAL 1-S NEWS

Published monthly by Macy's Dept. Store Employees Union

LOCAL 1-S, UNAFFILIATED

125 West 33rd Street New York 1, N. Y.

President: Sam Kovenetsky

1st Vice Pres.: George Gurian — 2nd Vice Pres.: Elizabeth Hammond

Editorial Board

Dorothy De Mauriac

Carl Lutz

William Roschak

Editor: Dick Pastor

LETTERS to the EDITOR

(Editor's note: This space belongs to you, the reader. We are certain that there are many among you who have valuable suggestions concerning many aspects of the activities and program of Local 1-S. We urge that you share your ideas with your co-workers. Your letters to the Editor can help to further strengthen our Union by contributing to a better mutual understanding of individual problems and aims. We look forward to hearing from you soon.)

To the Editor:

This morning I received my Local 1-S NEWS. I feel I must say I think this is the kind of paper our Union should have.

Thank you for a good paper. One whose main interest will be Local 1-S.

I am just getting acquainted with the new Health Plan, which I think is 100% swell.

Thanks again for the "NEWS."
Rosalie Dennis, 65-07

The following telegrams were received by President Kovenetsky:

Thanks for a job well done on the wonderful Health Plan.
(signed)

Stewards of Macy's Jamaica

Congratulations on a job well done. Health Plan wonderful.
(signed)

Non-Selling Shop Stewards

1-S Protests Bias; Little Black Sambo Sent into Limbo

Representatives of Local 1-S officially protested the continued sale by Macy's of Little Black Sambo in book form as degrading and insulting to the Negro people. The company took the protest under consideration and recently advised the Union that when the present stock is exhausted it will not be replaced.

This follows a similarly successful effort to remove the motion picture film of the same name from circulation.

Local 1-S Education Director Dick Pastor congratulated union members on their "vigilance in the continuing fight against discrimination in its many forms" and thanked the persons in Macy's responsible for the decision for their "willingness to help in the elimination of material which seeks to 'amuse' by holding the peoples of a minority race up to the ridicule and scorn of others."

To date, union members have reported the presence of offensive products in the toy department, greeting cards, book and motion picture films. In each case which has been called to the attention of Macy's the company has responded by withdrawing the merchandise. Union members have been urged to report the presence of any other such items to the union as soon as they appear.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

By YOMEN



"ALWAYS GLAD TO MEET A REPRESENTATIVE
OF A COMPANY UNION."

MAIN EVENTS

One of the most common problems we find in the store is the persistence with which some executives perform staff duties. In those departments where they have been told that their actions are in violation of the contract Shop Stewards and rank-and-file Union spokesmen have succeeded in putting an end to the abuse. Many union members seem to overlook the fact that they have a perfect right to approach such executives and insist that the malpractice cease. If the executive proves uncooperative, the Shop Steward or the Floor Committee Chairman should be notified immediately.

One big problem brought to the attention of the Union by Executive Board member and Floor Committeeman Max Wald concerns salesclerks doing the work of heads of stock. Major grievance in this case is that the salesclerks find themselves saddled with responsibilities which call for a higher rate of pay. Says Brother Wald, "Let them either get the higher rate or stop coming into the reserves to select appropriate stock." The Union agrees and is moving to settle the problem.

The Union delegation that called on top management to protest the added responsibility of clearing cash registers is still awaiting an answer as we go to press. The Union still feels that the decision was an unjust one and is determined to press for its reversal.

After having grown rusty through management-inspired disuse, the wheels of arbitration machinery are again beginning to grind. First case up is that of Charles Andrews, formerly of 128 Department and charged with an alleged violation of Rules and Regulations. The Union is confident that its case rests on firm ground and that Charlie will soon be back in the store.

It seems that Macy customers

were not horrified after all at finding their favorite salespeople in shirtsleeves during the hot spell. And so it is proved once again that determined and united action can overcome and topple stiff-necked tradition and resistance.

Macy carelessness in the handling of personnel records was scored heavily recently when the Union took up the case of Morris Schuster, 249 Department. Brother Schuster is nearing retirement and has been in the store for more than six years. A short while ago he was informed that he was on warning for his failure to perform many of his duties. A full investigation by the Union revealed the fact that the duties he was charged with neglecting had never been his and that he had never performed them in all his time on the job. The Union pressed its advantage and compelled the company to withdraw the entire warning and restore to Brother Schuster the perfect record he had so well earned.

STEWARDS — ATTENTION!

We know that there are many important grievances which are settled before they become major issues. Many of those are typical problems of concern to your co-workers in departments throughout the store. For example, the fight for additional stock help and the struggle to keep executives from doing staff work have been won in some departments, but has not even been started in others. If you have settled grievances which you believe will be of interest to other Union members, write them up and address them to Main Events, Local 1-S NEWS, 125 West 33rd Street, N. Y. C. We are certain that a full exchange of such information will prove of the greatest value to all who are concerned with defending our contract, strengthening our union and extending our gains.

As early as 1349 a group of bakers' servants were indicted in London, England, for "conspiring among themselves that they would not work for their masters except at double or treble the wages formerly given."

Macy's Labor Policy Lays A Turkey Egg

Macy officials, big and small, have rarely let an opportunity to sing their own praises slip by unnoticed. We have certainly been reminded that in addition to standing for 6% Less for Cash, Macy's stands for Harmonious Personnel Relations.

The recent "Turkey Incident" reveals with startling clarity the Macy concept of harmony. It should be evident to all that management found the distribution of Thanksgiving gobblers a highly satisfactory and economical substitute for paying a living wage. The company was delighted to be able to spend a small sum each year only so long as its employees remained properly grateful to the hand that fed them.

There is not a responsible Macy official who could truthfully deny that the company has been making big-business profits while paying retail shop wages. The worker's recognition of this truth led him to join with, and help build Local 1-S. Through their union 7600 Macy workers have won gains which were most strongly resisted by the very men who praise "Harmony" the loudest but who respect it only when it is on their own terms.

For each gain the union has won for its members, the company has sought something it could take away. Free library books became fee library books. DA privileges were whittled down. Traditional Turkeys disappeared from the favor bag. Additional duties have been imposed on already burdened workers. And by its actions Macy's has stripped the thin veneer of "Harmony" from its relations with each of us. The company has doubtless hoped that some would lay the responsibility at the doorstep of the Union. But quite the contrary, thousands of workers have characterized the Macy actions as "petty retaliation" against the gains we have secured. Thousands have responded by saying, "let Macy's keep their Turkeys, we will fight for and win wage increases that will allow us to eat what we want, when we want it. We will free ourselves of any dependency on company handouts."

The leaders of Local 1-S can draw great strength from the simple fact that the entire membership has learned that the only things Macy's cannot take away from them are those which are guaranteed them, in writing, in their Union Contract.

In light of this lesson the Union can look to the future with greater courage and greater confidence in its ability to include in its contract whatever provisions may be needed to keep all 7600 men and women independent of "favors" which were only designed to weaken and mislead them in the first place.

While we deplore these "petty retaliations" we are grateful that the company, only a few short months before the re-opening of the contract for wage discussions, has again shown so clearly to all concerned the true nature of their policy.

It is to be confidently expected that all members of Local 1-S will stand together in their demand for a wage adjustment that will rid us of the last traces of Macy paternalism and which will end forever any attempts by the company to claim benevolence for the gains only our unity and our determination have won.

Pensions

It is comforting to know that the chief executives of Macy's are aware of the fact that we cannot expect to live on the pensions to which we have to look forward on reaching retirement age.

The nail is hit squarely on the head when a company spokesman tells us that our ability to survive will depend on our savings. We have been saying the very same thing for a long, long while. But we have still had to struggle for every wage increase we have won. The only way we know of to be able to save is to increase our earnings so that we can both eat today and plan for the future, too.

We are morally certain that Macy executives will shudder at the thought of our providing for our old age out of the profits we help produce, but we are equally certain that no other alternative is left us.

For those who may be interested, we submit the following figures for the year which ended July, 1948.

Name	Capacity	Salary, etc.	Pension Allocated	Share in Profits	Grand Total
Jack I. Straus	President	\$125,340	\$13,620	\$28,267	\$167,227
Edwin I. Marks	Chm., Exec. Comm.	115,420	22,705	26,449	164,574
Beardsley Ruml	Chm. Bd. of Directors	100,280	10,251	21,974	132,505
12 Directors (including above 3)		577,008	60,335	116,327	753,670
43 top executives earning over \$20,000 per year		1,772,364	?	?	?

Need we say more?

White Plains—

(Continued from page 1)

of the Rug Department, for example, this change consisted of a revision of White Plains store policy which now brings workers in that department to the same level as prevails in the other branch stores. It is expected that this upgrading to the Furniture, Juvenile Furniture and Radio department standard will add from \$5 to \$6 weekly to earnings in the department.

Macy's has also agreed to a union demand that that they discuss the one discharge which has taken place in the Westchester store, despite the fact that the firing pre-dates the contract.

In welcoming the White Plains group into full membership, I-S President Sam Kovenetsky declared that "we have gone a long way towards winning for department store workers freedom from the starvation wages and long hours which ten years ago characterized the industry. We are confident that by maintaining our unity we shall be able to continue to forge ahead, winning new gains and still greater security for all."

Vice-President George Gurian, in presenting the contract said, "we know that we have not written into this agreement all we set out for. We must recognize, however, that it took I-S members a total of ten years to win the wage scale and the security provisions now protecting our 7600 members."

Elected to the Store Committee and Union Executive Board were Philip Finger, Gerard Conway and William Bittner.



President Sam Kovenetsky receives Union Voice trophy from Bernard Stevens on behalf of Local I-S Softball Champs while team members look on.

NAMM'S ZERO HOUR NEARS:

Carnes Hits "Union-Busting" Attempts

With management at Namms still standing pat on their offer of a \$1 per week wage increase, Local 1250 is moving ahead rapidly with its strike mobilization plans.

Nicholas Carnes, President of Local 1250 charged that the company had "brazenly called on its workers to repudiate the union which had represented them ever since the store was organized." He said further that Namms had "reinforced this stand of open union busting by an unparalleled wave of intimidation against our members. They spent thousands of dollars (which could well have gone

for wage increases) on leaflets, brochures and other forms of propaganda in order to split our ranks. They encouraged supervisory terror against our most loyal members. In short, they left no stone unturned in a desperate gamble to destroy Local 1250."

Against this background the membership of the Independent Union has voted, among other things, to hold demonstrations in front of the Namms store, to send delegations to talk to management and to open up a campaign to win public support.

STEWARD OF THE MONTH

Mary Schlachtman 11 Department Wins First Designation

Mary Schlachtman was almost, but not quite, a total stranger to trade union organization when she joined Local I-S less than two years ago.

She modestly admits that she "helped organize the Telephone workers in 1943 and '44" while working as a blueprint reader. What she doesn't point out is that the giant Telephone and Telegraph

combine was one of the toughest of all for the workers to beat.

Mary recalls that she was a pushover when the Union asked that a steward be elected from her department about a year ago. She says the thing that made it impossible for her to decline the job was the fact that she knew that workers "simply must have a Shop Steward. Besides which," she sighed, "I enjoy it."

As a Shop Steward, Mary Schlachtman says she has often been called upon to remind a newcomer that the only way we get

ahead is by our unity. "Every once in a while," she explained, "a worker will start doing things like stock work. Sometimes because he forgets that that is the stockman's job and sometimes because he thinks he's going to make a good impression on someone. We crack down pretty hard on them because we know that they don't hurt only themselves by their conduct, but actually hurt all of us."

In Mary's estimation the key to being a good steward is the use of good psychology. She insists that to be good union members people must also be good workers, not shirkers who try to hide behind the union. Although she admits to having been scared stiff when she took up her first grievance, she now says "one of the biggest and best lessons I learned was that a worker commands more respect when the boss finds that he can't push him around."

In a word to other Stewards, Mary urged them to "read the contract well and keep your eyes peeled for violations. Attend the Union's Stewards classes if you really want to do the best job for yourself and the Union."

Mary sews all the clothes for her 17½-year old daughter and includes cooking and knitting in her hobbies.

If you believe that your Steward is really "on the ball" send a postcard to the Editor, Local I-S NEWS with the Steward's name and department number and some of the reasons why you think he or she should be the Steward of the Month. The Steward receiving most nominating cards will be the selection for the month.

I-S SPORTS

Just For The Fun Of It

By CHARLEY (Pat) AULETTA, I-S Sports Director

Many people, when they hear the word "Sports" think immediately in terms of such competitive team activities such as softball, baseball and basketball. But the French, clever people that they are, say "pour le sport" and mean "for the fun of it" in the broadest possible sense.

The narrow interpretation applied by most people in this country has made it almost impossible for us to produce the gymnastic spectacles made famous throughout Europe by the Sokol groups. It has also made it most difficult for us to even win the active participation of our members in a sports, or more precisely, a recreational program.

In addition to having to overcome the misunderstandings about, and the indifference to, such activities we have come face to face with many physical problems that seemed almost insurmountable.

With a very small budget allowed us we have been stopped almost cold by the job of finding gymnasiums and playing fields at prices we could afford to pay. While most of these facilities are privately owned, we are fortunate enough to enjoy good relations with the Board of Education and the Department of Parks. Through them we have gained access to school gyms and park playgrounds at very nominal costs.

Textile High School Community Center was made available to members of Local I-S on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. Swimming, calisthenics, fencing, ping-pong, shuffleboard, badminton, volleyball and folk dancing was part of the regular fare enjoyed by the many who came.

As word spread of the fun to be had, members at Parkchester, Flatbush and Jamaica began to call for similar programs in their neighborhoods. And so, this year as we set about renewing our arrangements for our Herald Square members, we also scouted the possibility of providing those in the outlying areas with recreational facilities. At this point we are able to report that Flatbush will soon have a full schedule of its own, including bowling. Jamaica arrangements have almost been completed and will include classes in ballroom dancing along with the more active sports. Parkchester will continue its program at P. S. 102 and looks forward to adding bowling to its curriculum. Bowling teams will be open to the husbands or wives, boy friends or girl friends of Union members. Since it is expected that only a limited number of alleys will be available to us it is advisable that those who are interested make their reservations by dropping a line to the Sports Editor.

Looking ahead to the time when the snow will fly and hickory board enthusiasts begin to wax the runners, we are now ready to take reservations for week-end ski trips. Our union groups will find room and board, plus ski equipment and instructions for the tyro at amazingly low cost. The Sports Editor will give full details upon request.

Union basketball teams will begin Fall practice immediately after the Labor Day week-end, while those who are interested solely "pour le sport" will soon find notices on all bulletin boards as to where and when they can indulge their individual aptitudes.

If you have any suggestions or help that you can give to make this program a terrific success, be sure to get in touch with Sports Director Charley (Pat) Auletta at the Union office.

RECREATION PROGRAM BALLOT

I approve the Executive Board's action in setting up a Local I-S Recreational program.

I wish to participate in: (Check which)

SWIMMING	<input type="checkbox"/>	FOLK DANCING	<input type="checkbox"/>
BOWLING	<input type="checkbox"/>	FENCING	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALESTHENICS	<input type="checkbox"/>	PING PONG	<input type="checkbox"/>

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☐ Advanced Procedures (this course is intended for experienced Shop Stewards.)
Check which night you prefer:
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